During the year 2002-2003, a sum of Rs. 780.36 lakhs has been sanctioned for development of Southern Circuit in Kerala. The State Government has been requested to offer their comments on the project of Travancore Devasom Board.

Aerospace Museum in Bangalore

4143. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) which are the new galleries added to the Visveswariah Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore since 2000 till date;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has opened an Aerospace Museum in Bangalore; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to exhibit the models/pictures etc., of Aerospace Museum at VITM by taking up the matter with the HAL authorities to facilitate visitors to see the developments in Aerospace at one place?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) A gallery titled "Space Emerging Technology in the Service of Mankind" with a floor area of 7000sq. metres was opened in Visveswariah Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM) on 19th June 1999. One Dinosaur corner was opened on 15th December 2001 and a "Bio-Technological Revolution" gallery with a covered area of 500 sq. metres was added to the Museum on 4th January 2003.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) VITM already has one gallery titled "Space Emerging Technology in the Service of Mankind" which was opened in June 1999. The gallery depicts Indian achievements in space technology and some basic principles of aviation. Due to space constraints, it will not be possible for VITM to display more exhibits and models.

Financial assistance to voluntary organisations in Gujarat

4144. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provide financial assistance to voluntary organisations engaged in preservation and promotion of Tribal Culture in the country;